

Appl. No. : 09/869,182
Filed : May 21, 2002

REMARKS

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner has rejected Claims 1-7, 11-22, 24-28, and 30-32, and objected to Claims 8-10, 23, and 29. Claims 1, 6, and 7 have been amended, Claims 5, 8, 31, and 32 have been canceled, and Claims 33-110 have been added. No new matter has been added. Thus, Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-30, and 33-110 are presented for further examination. Reconsideration and allowance of all Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-30, and 33-110 in light of the present remarks is respectfully requested.

Discussion of Drawing Objections

The drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) for failing to show labels in Figures 1, 4, and 5 as described in the specification. Replacement sheets including Figures 1, 4, and 5 are enclosed with this amendment, wherein Figure 1 has been amended to include appropriate labels as recited in the specification. No new matter has been added.

In reference to Figure 4, Applicant notes that the figure is an exemplary three-dimensional representation of the features described in the specification at page 26 of the English translation of the International Application, filed February 7, 2002, and also illustrated in other figures, such as Figure 2. Applicant respectfully submits that the drawings symbols illustrated in Figure 4 are sufficient taken in conjunction with the specification and other figures, and that additional labels are not required for a proper understanding of the invention. Thus, Applicant has not amended Figure 4.

In reference to Figure 5, Applicant notes that the figure illustrates a semantic network between information objects 32-38 and a corresponding connection space 40, as discussed at page 27, first paragraph, of the English translation of the International Application. Applicant respectfully submits that the graphical representations provided in Figure 5 are sufficient wherein the blocks are labeled with the letters "IO" in reference to "Information Object". Accordingly, no amendments have been made to Figure 5.

The drawings were also objected to because "some of the drawings are not clear to view such as Fig. 6-17 (they are too dark and the letters are too small)." Replacement sheets including Figures 6-17 are enclosed with this amendment, along with replacements sheets including Figures 2 and 3, such that a full set of replacement drawings are enclosed.

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Applicant respectfully submits that the drawings are clear and in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a), and therefore Applicant respectfully requests the objections to the drawings be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter and New Claims

The Examiner stated that "Claims 8-10, 23, and 29 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form." Claim 1 has been amended to recite features similar to those recited in Claim 8, and therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

New independent Claim 33 has been added and recites features similar to those recited in Claim 9 as examined and the limitations recited in the base claim, new independent Claim 60 has been added and recites features similar to those recited in Claim 10 and the limitations recited in the base claim, and new independent Claim 86 has been added and recites features similar to those recited in Claim 23 and the limitations recited in the base claim. As the Examiner indicated that the subject matter recited in Claims 9, 10, and 23 is allowable, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 33, 60, and 86 are in condition for allowance.

Because Claims 2-4, 6, 7, 9-30, 34-59, 61-85, and 87-110 depend from Claims 1, 33, 60, and 86, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 4, they incorporate by reference all the limitations of the claim to which they refer. It is therefore submitted that these claims are in condition for allowance at least for the reasons expressed with respect to the independent claim, and for their other features.

Comment on Statement of Reason for Allowance

The Examiner has focused on specific terms in the claims in granting allowance. However, it is respectfully submitted that the entire language of each claim must be read to determine patentability.

Conclusion

Applicant has endeavored to address all of the Examiner's concerns as expressed in the outstanding Office Action. Accordingly, amendments to the claims and drawings and the

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reasons therefore are presented above. In light of these amendments and remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections is respectfully requested.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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